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KARELO-FINNISH TIMBER INDUSTRY CRITICIZED

In 1948, average utilization of available equipment in enterprises of the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry Karelo-Finnish SSR was 45 percent for power plants and electric saws, 43 percent for automobile equipment, and 55 percent for locomotives.

Full exploitation of the reserves is hindered by the tendency of the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR to place the basic load of logging and hauling on seasonal and land operations. Thus kolkhoz workers over the past 3 years have done an ever-increasing volume of logging and hauling, while more than 30 percent of the electric power stations and more than 50 percent of the automobile equipment and locomotives have been idle. Orlov, Minister of Timber and Paper Industry USSR, is more inclined to throw large numbers of men and horses into logging operations than to utilize properly the large amount of mechanized equipment available.

Another shortcoming is the lack of a repair base. Not one mechanized logging enterprise in the Karelo-Finnish SSR has a suitable repair shop, and it is necessary to procure even the most minor part from places, 50-100 kilometers distant.

A third disadvantage is the lack of skilled personnel. The personnel section of the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR in 1948 authorized the training of such a small number of skidding tractor operators that there were 5 tractors for each operator, while normally each tractor requires two skilled men.

KIRGIZIA TO FLOAT TIMBER --- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, No 115, 14 Jun 49

During the summer season, 80,000 cubic meters of commercial timber and firewood will be floated on the rivers of the Kirgit SSR. Floating operations usually start around the middle of June with the rising of the water in high mountain rivers. About 34,000 cubic meters of commercial timber will be towed in rafts on the Issyk-Kul' Lake.

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LUMBER MILL RENOVATED -- 'Sovetskaya Sibir', No 92, 11 May 49

Lumber Mill No 1 - 2, Novosibirsk Oblast, is now being operated at full capacity after having completed capital repairs. Additional machinery has been added and the technology of sawing and millwork has been substantially altered. This year, the plant has pledged to produce nearly 20,000 more cubic meters of lumber than in 1948. Construction of a new waste-products in which production of consumers' goods will be organized, is being completed.

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